

hundreds, I have noted only one significant departure from the typical grey-brown colouration, and that was a specimen with a whitish ground colour on 18th July 1968.

On 12th August 1983 a large whitish, sparsely marked *Ectropis* appeared well over a week after the last (typical) *bistortata* had occurred. The specimen was shown to Mr. E. C. Pelham-Clinton who considered it to be a typical *crepuscularia*.

On 2nd August 1984, after second brood *bistortata* had been on the wing for a good three weeks, a fresh wave of *Ectropis* occurred, and of a total of 27 individuals noted between that date and 20th August (after which trapping ceased for some days), only a very small proportion conformed in appearance to the local *bistortata* — and, indeed, may well have been late individuals of that species. All but two of the remainder were either sparsely marked, conspicuously whitish insects (similar to the 1983 capture) or possessed a whitish or whitish-grey ground colour. Of the remaining two, one appeared to be consistent with *ab. delamerensis* B. White and the other exhibited varying shades of grey and was scarcely recognisable as an *Ectropis* species!

From the above it is difficult to resist the conclusion that a pronounced second generation of *crepuscularia* occurred on Danbury Ridge in August 1984. I appreciate that opinions differ among lepidopterists as to whether or not there is ever a second brood of *crepuscularia*, but it is certainly very odd that a pronounced flight of *Ectropis*, the vast majority of which were quite different in appearance to the local *bistortata*, should have developed in early August when the second brood of *bistortata* is normally dying out.

Mr. A. J. Dewick tells me that at Bradwell-on-Sea, where trapping has been carried out regularly for nearly 40 years and from which *crepuscularia* has not been claimed, there is virtually no variation in the colour of *bistortata* and no melanic specimen has ever occurred.

I am indebted to Mr. Simon Wood, who is now operating a trap 200 yards from mine, for details of his August records which are included in the above total. G. A. PYMAN, "Treyarnon", The Ridge, Little Baddow, nr. Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 4RT.

SECOND GENERATION OF *ECTROPIS CREPUSCULARIA* (D. & S.) — Having seen Mr. Pyman's note, kindly sent to me in typescript, I am prompted to add my own records of some apparent second generation specimens of *Ectropis crepuscularia* (D. & S.).

My first was a male taken at light on 25th September 1959 near Skibbereen, Co. Cork, a pale specimen with the fine blackish pencilling characteristic of southern *crepuscularia* and just as large as any of the normal May generation. I was not surprised that Mr.

E. S. A. Baynes did not accept the record and until recently I had doubts about it myself.

I became convinced that second generation *crepuscularia* did occur when collecting with Dr. J. R. Langmaid on the BENHS field meeting at Harewood Forest, Hants. on 2nd August 1982, when there appeared on the sheet a few individuals each of rather worn *E. bistortata* (Goeze) and, in better condition, *E. crepuscularia*, distinguishable at a glance by their greater size and paler colouring.

Finally, an apparent second generation female *crepuscularia* came into my garden m.v. trap here on 26th July 1982 and a male on 23rd August 1985. E. C. PELHAM-CLINTON, Furzeleigh House, Lyme Road, Axminster, Devon, EX13 5SW.

MYTHIMNA LOREYI DUP. (LEP. NOCTUIDAE) IN CORNWALL. — During the autumn of 1985 I made two visits to the Lizard, from October 1st to 3rd and from October 14th to 17th. The former was made at the end of an anticyclonic spell; the nights were mild, but clear and with a full moon, breezy on the first night but with gale force winds on subsequent ones, so m.v. light was operated only on the first evening and was largely unproductive, while three nights' sugaring attracted a mere dozen moths on each of the first two evenings, and nothing on the third. However, the bait did attract four *M. loreyi*, all in good condition, one specimen of the local dark form of *Eumichtis lichenea* Hubn. and several of the characteristic well-marked, variegated form of *Aporophyla australis* Boisd.

Anticyclonic conditions prevailed during the second visit; again the nights were mild, but after the first evening a rising easterly breeze and clearing skies soon after dark seemed to inhibit flight. Sugar applied to posts on the first two evenings attracted but a solitary *A. nigra* Haw. The commonest moths at the m.v. light were *Autographa gamma* L. in vast numbers, including a specimen of the rare ab. *bipartita* Orst. in which the "y" mark is broken into a "v" and a dot, and *Phlogophora meticulosa* L. However, next commonest was *M. loreyi* with seventeen, but not in the prime condition of those seen a fortnight earlier. Other probable immigrants in addition to the three species mentioned were several *Agrotis ipsilon* Rott., three *Peridroma saucia* Hubn. and one *M. unipuncta* Haw.; other interesting species comprised a number of *A. australis*, still in good condition, and singletons of *E. lichenea*, *Dasypolia templi* Thunb. and a barely recognizable *Lygephila cracca* Fab.

Thus twenty-one *M. loreyi* were encountered, under not very favourable conditions; of the seventeen at m.v. light few entered the trap but rested amongst the grass a yard or so away, indeed a number were not observed until after the light had been extinguished, when after a while they tended to climb the grass stems pre-